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LETTER DATED 21 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 190th meeting of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, held on 12 October 1999, the representative of the United States in the Committee circulated to members a printed document entitled "Saddam Hussein's Iraq" that contained information and photographs relating to what he termed the policy of expulsion and destruction of homes being pursued by Iraq, Iraq's threats to its neighbours, and Iraq's failure to comply with Security Council resolutions.

The Committee was established by Security Council resolution 661 (1990) of 6 August 1990. In its paragraph 6, the Council specifies the tasks to be assigned to the Committee, and they define exhaustively the modalities for the effective implementation of the resolution's provisions. Accordingly, we consider that, in circulating a document that is not characterized by veracity, the representative of the United States was injecting the Committee into political issues with tendentious objectives. The substance of this dubious document bears no relation to the function of the Committee, and the sole purpose of this action by the United States was therefore to influence the Committee's work in a manner that does not accord with the mandate entrusted to it.

You must know that the American document is full of the lies, allegations, fabrications and worthless sophistries that United States officials have been using against Iraq for several years in the context of a contrived political propaganda campaign, as part of a policy of conspiracy against Iraq's national regime and as a pretext for maintaining a position that is almost unique in its insistence on continuing to afflict the Iraqi people with an unjust embargo that has no justification.

The hostile practices of the United States vis-à-vis Iraq and the contempt it expresses for United Nations committees by attempting to deflect them from the proper exercise of their mandates require that you should put an end to such practices and that you request the Committee to focus in its work on how to simplify its procedures in order to assist the Iraqi people to satisfy its needs and meet its most pressing basic requirements. The United Nations agencies have confirmed this situation, and the most recent position taken in this regard is

that set forth in the UNICEF report of 12 August 1999. The recommendations made therein include a request to the Committee to simplify and expedite the processing of contracts under the memorandum of understanding in order to halt the sharp rise in the infant mortality rate in Iraq, which the report attributes to the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq more than nine years ago.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative